

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2653

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNESCO, IS, SF, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA BLASTS MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF VORSTER VISIT
TO ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA'S COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN (APRIL 16)
BY MIKHAIL ZENOVICH, ENTITLED "TEL-AVIV - PRETORIA
AXIS," HITS HARD AT NUCLEAR WEAPONRY BOGEYMAN BEHIND
PM VORSTER'S RECENT VISIT TO ISRAEL. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO ZENOVICH, IT WAS ANNOUNCED ONLY THAT
THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED INCREASED TRADE AND SCIENTIFIC-
TECHNICAL COOPERATION, BUT THE "WIDELY HELD VIEW" OF
MANY COMMENTATORS IS THAT THE DISCUSSIONS REPRESENTED
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THE BEGINNING OF A "RACIST-ZIONIST ALLIANCE" DIRECTED

AGAINST THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF THE AFRICAN AND ARAB PEOPLES." ZENOVICH STRESSED THE "CLOSENESS" OF THE CONCEPTS OF ZIONISM AND APARTHEID, AND CALLS THE READER'S ATTENTION TO LAST YEAR'S UNGA RESOLUTION CONDEMNING "THESE TWO IDEOLOGIES." ZENOVICH ADDS THAT RABIN AND VORSTER BOTH SUPPORTED "CLOSER COOPERATION" IN ORDER TO COUNTER THE RISING "LIBERATION STRUGGLES" THEY ARE FACING, AND HE POINTS OUT THE VISIT TOOK PLACE AT A TIME OF INCREASED ARAB AGITATION AGAINST ISRAELI ADMINISTRATION OF THE WEST BANK, AS WELL AS A "WIDENING" OPPOSITION MOVEMENT BY THE AFRICAN POPULATION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

3. ZENOVICH SAVES HIS HEAVIEST BROADSIDES FOR THE VISIT'S ALLEGED MILITARY IMPLICATIONS. ACCORDING TO HIM, VORSTER'S VISITS TO THE "(KFIR" FACTOR AND ISRAEL'S "NAVAL BASE" AT SHARM ASH-SHEIKH DEMONSTRATE SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTION TO USE ISRAELI "HELP" IN "MODERNIZING" ITS MILITARY MACHINE WHICH, "AFTER THE DEFEAT IN ANGOLA, IS RECOGNIZED AS OBSOLETE." ZENOVICH CITES A LONDON TIMES REPORT THAT PRETORIA IS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ISRAELI "TECHNICAL INSTRUCTORS" TO ASSIST IN THE STRUGGLE "AGAINST THE PARTISANS." FOR ITS PART, THE AUTHOR CONTINUES, ISRAEL IS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING FROM SOUTH AFRICA "STRATEGIC RAW MATERIALS, INCLUDING URANIUM." IN THE OPINION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, ZENOVICH ADDS, THIS VISIT REPRESENTS A "REAL POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF THE ZIONISTS AND RACISTS IN THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPON".

4. "IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS," ZENOVICH CONCLUDES, THAT THERE HAS BEEN A "THOROUGHLY THOUGHT-THROUGH STRATEGY OF MUTUAL BATTLE AGAINST THE LIBERATION FORCES OF THE AFRICAN AND ARAB WORLD, BASED ON THE UNITED MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL OF THE TWO REGIMES." (A STRATEGY) WHICH SHOULD BE DECISIVELY "CONDEMNED BY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION."

5. COMMENT. VORSTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL OBVIOUSLY PROVIDES IDEAL GRIST FOR THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA MILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCING "PROOF" OF A "RACIST/ZIONIST" NEXUS. EMPHASIS ON THE NUCLEAR WEAPON ASPECT, HOWEVER, RAISES THIS PARTICULAR BOGEYMAN TO NEW HEIGHTS AND COULD PRESAGE AN INTENSIFIED MEDIA CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AT ISRAEL'S REPORTED POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

BREMENT

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